



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

October 31, 2006

**TO: AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PHARMACY PROVIDERS**

**SUBJECT: HIV DRUG INFORMATION**

The medications used to treat HIV and AIDS are subject to numerous drug interactions or adverse effects. Some of these interactions or adverse effects are more significant than others and can be categorized as definite, probable, or possible.

In the past year, Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid) has used their Pharmacy Provider bulletins to notify pharmacies about situations with two specific HIV/AIDS medications.

The first bulletin involved the interaction between Atazanavir and Proton Pump Inhibitors. This was in response to a "Dear Healthcare Provider" letter released by Bristol-Myers Squibb in December 2004. Specifically, the letter addressed the co-administration of Atazanavir and Omeprazole, 40 mg which resulted in a reduction of Atazanavir exposure levels. This could be categorized as a probable interaction. Evidence exists that the interaction occurs, however, the outcome or significance has not been established. As a result, the manufacturer has recommended against the co-administration of these medications.

The most recent bulletin involved the observation of Intracranial Hemorrhage (ICH) in patients receiving boosted regimens of Tipranavir. This adverse effect could be categorized as possible. While ICH has been observed in patients receiving Tipranavir, they were also on other medications or had medical conditions that may have caused or contributed to the events. As a result, providers were reminded to have patients report any unusual or unexplained bleeding to their physicians.

The above are just two examples of interactions or adverse effects where providers should make a clinical judgment whether or not to contact the physician. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program encourages pharmacy providers to utilize all available resources to remain current in HIV treatment and provide the highest possible level of professional services to our clients. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [sberk@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:sberk@dhs.ca.gov) or (916) 449-5988.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen B. Berk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Berk" clearly legible.

Stephen Berk, R.Ph.  
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